Harassment of Opium Growers of Mandsaur District, Madhya Pradesh

4483. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a representation from Opium growers from Mandsaur District, Madhya Pradesh about harassment by officers of the Police Department and Narcotics Department;

(b) whether the Opium growers have suggested amendments to the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act;

(c) whether they have also demanded increase in the price of Opium; and

(d) what is Government's reaction to these demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARATHANAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Central Bureau of Narcotics has been advised to guard against any harassment of innocent poppy cultivators, while maintaing its drive against illicit drug trafficking in the country. The suggestions made by opium growers in so far as they dilute the sprit of the NDPS Act have not been found acceptable. However, the Government has introduced a Bill during the current Session of Parliament for amendment of the NDPS Act, 1985. The Bill provides for a number of matters including rationalisation of sentences under the Act. The Government has already increased the price of opium payable to cultivators in 1997. The demand for further increase in price would be looked into.

Economic Crimes

4484. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of economic crimes committed during the last three years;

(b) whether adequate steps have been taken to prevent them; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARATHANAM): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

New Banks in Private/Public Sectors

4485. DR. JAGANNATH MISRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new banks including coopeative banks, established during each of the last three years in the country in private and public sector, State-wise; and

(b) the number of application pending in this regard for clearance, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) No New banks has been established in the public sector during the three years. During 1994—97 ten new banks have been set up in the private sector with following year-wise and State-wise details:—

Year	Name of State	No. of banks having Head Office in State
1994	Gujarat	2
	Maharashtra	1
	Andhra Pradesh	1
1995	Maharashtra	2
	Goa	1
	Punjab	1
	Haryana	1
	Andhra Pradesh	1

(One Development Cooperative Bank has been converted into a private sector bank)

State Co-operative Banks

1996	NIL
1997	Sikkim State Co-operative Bank
1998	NIL

District Central Co-operative Banks

1996	2
1997	1
1998	—

(b) Number of applications pending:—

Public Sector Banks:	NIL
Private Sector Banks:	As on April, 1998, 40 applications were pending. State-wise details are as under:—

State	No. of pending applications
Andhra Pradesh	4
Bihar	1
Gujrat	2
Haryana	4
Himachal Pradesh	1
Karnataka	1
Kerala	1
Maharashtra	6
Madhya Pradesh	3
Orissa	2
Punjab	2
Rajasthan	4
Tamil Nadu	2
Uttar Pradesh	3
New Delhi (UT)	1
West Bengal	2
	39

One applicant has not indicated the Centre at which at proposes to locate the Head Quarters of the Bank.

As regard SCBs/DCCBs, no application is pending.

Rural Wealth Tax

4486. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to impose a rural wealth tax;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any such attempt was made earlier to impose tax on wealthy rural people; and

(d) if so, with what results and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) No. Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of (c) above, does not arise.

Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation

4487. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to grant the status of a public finance institution to infrastructure Development Finance Corporation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Finance Minister in his Budget Speech for 1998-99 has, inter-alia, announced that in order to put Infrastructure Development Finance Company Limited (IDFC) on par with other all India public Financial Institutions in the matter of fiscal incentives and fund rasing benefits extended to these institutions, it is proposed to make necessary amendments to the Companies Act.

Loans to farmers

4488. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount provided as loans by banks to the farmers of various States during the preceding three years till now, State-wise particularly in Assam;

(b) the percentage of loans provided to the farmers of the State during the

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